

From: Jack Likins [mailto:jacklikins@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wed 3/12/2008 11:31 PM
To: Melissa Miller-Henson
Cc:
Subject: Abalone diving in Sub-region 1

Melissa,

I took the time to compile some statistics about abalone diving in sub-region 1 (Salt Point State Park to Alder Creek) that I would appreciate your passing along to the Stakeholders and the Blue Ribbon Task Force. As the data indicates, abalone fishing/diving is centered in our sub-region and the sitings of MPAs will be extremely important to abalone divers and, in turn, to the local economies.

Summary of sub-region 1

1. This sub-region is the center of California's most used recreational abalone diving based on the DFG's 2002, abalone report card records(these were the latest records available to me).
2. Recreational abalone diving is the most important economic use of the sub-region's ocean resources because of the tourism created by the sport. This information is based on DFG studies done for the Abalone Recovery and Management Plan (ARMP) in 2000.
3. Consumptive abalone fishing is sustainable and well regulated in the region by current DFG laws. This information is based on the most heavily used abalone index sites in the region.

Comparison of areas within sub-region 1 (starting from the south)

1. Salt Point State Park (Horseshoe Cove) to Black Point (including Stewarts Point)
 - Length of coastline = 6 miles
 - Number of shore-based public accesses = zero.
 - A few large landowners control the shore access in this area and do not allow public access.

- Amount of abalone fishing based on 2002 DFG report card records (Horseshoe Cove, Rocky Point, Stewarts Point, Black Point) = 5580 abalones or 930 abalones per mile of coastline.
2. Black Point to Gualala Point (most of Sea Ranch)
- Length of coastline = 7.7 miles
 - Number of shore-based public accesses = 6 plus bluff-top trail from Gualala Point County Park.
 - Number of Sea Ranch landowners = 2288.
 - Amount of abalone fishing based on 2002 DFG report cards records (Sea Ranch and Gualala Point) = 15675 abalones or 2036 abalone per mile of coastline.
3. Gualala Point to Schooner Gulch (including Saunders Reef).
- Length of coastline = 10 miles
 - Number of shore-based public accesses = 4, including Anchor Bay which is a private community that currently allows public access.
 - Access along most of this coastline is private and/or is controlled by private landowners of which there are several hundred owners.
 - Amount of abalone fishing based on 2002 DFG report card records (Robinson Point, Anchor Bay, Saunders Landing) = 7158 abalones or 716 abalone per mile of coastline.
4. Schooner Gulch to Alder Creek (northern boundary of North Central Coast region, including Schooner Gulch State Park, Moat Creek, Arena Cove, Arena Rock, Stornetta's BLM land and part of Manchester State Beach).
- Length of coastline = 12.5 Miles

- Number of shore-based public access points (Schooner Gulch, Moat Creek, Area Cove, Stornetta's BLM land and Manchester State Beach) = 5
- There is good public access between large landowners along this section of coastline. Arena Cove is important to both public fishing and to the city of Point Arena, economically.
- Amount of abalone fishing based on 2002 DFG report card records (Schooner Gulch, Moat Creek, Arena Cove and Point Arena Lighthouse) = 21080 abalones or 1686 abalones per mile of coastline.

Based on the data presented above Sea Ranch is the most used area in sub-region 1 for abalone fishing (2035 abalone per mile of coastline). It also has the most public accesses per mile of coastline (0.8 accesses per mile of coastline).

As a comparison, the 10 miles south of sub-region 1 (including Salt Point State Park south to Fort Ross) had a 2002 take of 3696 abalones per mile of coastline. The area from Salt Point south to Fort Ross is mostly state/county park oceanfront land and includes the private/public accesses at Timber Cove and Ocean Cove. Almost all of this 10-mile section of coastline is accessible to the public and open to abalone fishing/diving, unlike sub-region 1.

With the well-managed abalone resource and its importance to both shore-based fishermen and the local economy, the Sea Ranch's public accesses should not be included in an SMR that excludes abalone fishing.

Let me know what you think.

Thankx,

Jack Likins

PS I sent Francesca Koe a photo montage of the Sea Ranch public access points. If you're interested, ask her to see it.